Violence in Delhi University Campus

*17. SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the incidents of violence in University Campus in Delhi have increased recently;

(b) whether Government's attention in this regard has been drawn to a newsitem captioned "Campus violence reflects shift in student attitudes" appearing in "The Indian Express" dated the 6th January, 1997; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI): (a) to (c) Although the specific incidents of violence/hooliganism mentioned in the newspaper report in question are unfortunate, it would neither be correct nor fair to infer that there is a general rise in the incidents/instances of lawlessness on the campus of the University and its colleges. In any case, the University authorities have been asked to draw up a concrete action plan for maintenance of peace and tranquility on the campus and to send a detailed report on the specific instances cited in the newspaper report.

Protection of Buddhist Relics

*18. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a newsitem in 'The Hindustan Times' dated the 3rd January, 1997, captioned "Monumental neglect" wherein it has been stated that the recently unearthed Buddhist relics are facing threat of vanishing; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to save these relies?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government have seen the news-item. The Buddhist relics have been recently excavated by the Government of Orissa, who have taken necessary measures for their conservation and protection.

Ban on Ragging

*19. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether ragging has been banned in some States/Union Territories;

(b) if so, the names of such States & Union Territories;

(c) whether the ban orders provide punitive action against Institutions and students found involved in ragging;

(d) whether Government propose to ask Andhra Pradesh Government to take action to ban ragging in colleges of the State to provide healthy educational atmosphere; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI): (a) to (e) Central Government regards the practice of ragging in educational institutions as reprehensible and unwholesome. Instructions have been issued, from time to time, to the universities and institutions, and State Governments to take stern action to curb this menace, and to invoke punitive provisions of law where under the garb of ragging specific offences are committed. The Universities and other educational institutions are also being asked to amend their Ordinances/Regulations to outlaw ragging and treat those participating in it as guilty of 'gross misconduct so that the penalty of rustication or removal from the of the universities could be imposed on the offenders. Central Government has no information as to specific prohibition of ragging imposed by any State through legislation.

Government is of the view that the provisions of law under the Indian Penal Code are sufficient and adequate to take care of the aggravated forms of ragging under Sections 302, 304(A), 307, 324, 325, 326, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 357, 358, 376, 377, 383, 509 and 511. What is needed is unhesitating use of these normal provisions of law as and when the need arises.